

# **Unclassified Service Public Hearing**

## **Public Hearing Agenda # 013**

### **Department of Public Safety**

#### **Minutes of Proceeding**

**September 3, 2008 (W)**

**Good morning everyone. My name is Anthony Bucci and I am the State Personnel Administrator and I am employed at the Rhode Island Department of Administration. I am here today to conduct an “Unclassified” Public Hearing on behalf of Jerome F. Williams, Director of the Department of Administration. This hearing is being conducted pursuant to Chapter 36-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, specifically Sections 36-4-16 and 36-4-16.2.**

**For the record, today is Wednesday, September 3rd, 2008 at 9:05 am. Notice of this Public Hearing was posted on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 on each of the five floors within the Department of Administration, at the State House Library and filed electronically with the Secretary of State. Further, on Wednesday, August 27th, 2008, the Notice and Agenda were electronically forwarded to labor union officials, and state agency managements.**

**The purpose of this Hearing is to allow for public comments concerning five (5) proposed amendments to the Unclassified Service Classification and Pay Plan contained in Public Hearing Agenda # 013 surrounding the creation of the Department of Public Safety.**

**Specifically, Rhode Island General Law Title 42 Chapter 7.3 Section 3 (42-7.3-3) entitled “Powers and duties of the department” defines the scope of responsibility of this new Department. Agencies now statutorily falling under the Department of Public Safety include the RI State Police, the Office of the RI Capitol Police, the Office of the RI State Fire Marshal, the E-911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System Division and the Municipal Police Training Academy. The proposals include four (4) new classifications with five (5) associated class abolishments, and one (1) new classification/reallocation also with an associated class abolishment.**

**In terms of process, it is important to note that all comments will be recorded and this record shall be reviewed by the Director of the Department of Administration and the Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Subsequently, a final decision will be made and that decision will be implemented.**

**If you wish to make a comment on the proposed amendments, I ask that you please speak loud enough in order to make certain that the recorder here in the front of the room can accurately record your comments. Also, please identify yourself and “spell” your last name for the record and if you are representing an organization please identify that organization. Finally, if you have any “written comments” you are welcome to provide a copy.**

**As I proceed through the Agenda, I will identify each item being**

**proposed individually, and subsequently, those of you wishing to provide public comment may do so.**

**Please turn to page one (1) of the Agenda.**

**Agenda Item # 1 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Superintendent – Director of Public Safety/Commissioner” and the Class Abolishment of “Superintendent (State Police)”. There is no change in pay grade or salary and this change shall be in effect on September 7th, 2008. The incumbent is Mr. Brendan P. Doherty. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 1? The record will reflect that there is no public comment on this agenda item.**

**Agenda Item # 2 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Lieutenant Colonel (State Police)” and the Class Abolishment of two (2) titles including “Major/Field Operations” and “Major/Administrative Services”. There is no change in pay grade or salary and this change shall be in effect on September 7th, 2008. The incumbents are Mr. Steven G. O’Donnell and Mr. Joseph R. Miech. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 2? The record will reflect that there is no public comment on this agenda item.**

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**Agenda Item # 3 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Major (State Police)” and the Class Abolishment of “Division Staff Inspector”. There is no change in pay grade or salary and this change shall be in effect on September 7th, 2008. The incumbents are Mr. Stephen M. Bannon and Mr. Elwood M. Johnson, Jr.. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 3? The record will reflect that there is no public comment on this agenda item.**

**Agenda Item # 4 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Associate Director (E-911)” and the Class Abolishment of “Executive Director – 911 Telecommunications Systems”. There is no change in pay grade or salary and this change shall be in effect on September 7th, 2008. The incumbent is Mr. Raymond R. Labelle. Are there any comments on Agenda Item # 4? The record will reflect that there is no public comment on this agenda item.**

**Agenda Item # 5 proposes the creation of a New Classification – “Director of Finance and Central Management (Department of Public Safety)” and the Class Abolishment of “Director of Finance (State Police)”. Ms. Elaine M. Richards is the current incumbent within the class to be abolished. It is proposed that she be reallocated into the new classification to be in effect on September 7th, 2008. The class proposed to be abolished is established at a pay grade G- 838A with a pay range from \$74,168 through \$85,220. The new classification is to be established at a pay grade G- 840A which includes a pay range from \$81,089 through \$93, 480. Are there any comments on Agenda**

**Item # 5?**

**Public comment: Salvatore Lombardi, President of Local 2884, AFSCME – Council 94:**

**Yes, my name is Salvatore Lombardi, President of AFSCME, Local 2884. Mr. Bucci you know as well as I, controversy has been taking place in State Government for months now in reference to the budget. I think at this particular time, to give this individual a raise, is an insult to the people of the State of Rhode Island. Right now this individual, Elaine Richards, with her longevity and everything else that goes along with it, is earning \$102,000 a year, including her base pay and longevity. As you know, I represent people at the Treasury Department. I have people here that are ten pay grades lower than this that are responsible for reconciling the books of the State of Rhode Island. Right now the Governor wants to increase this person's salary by two pay grades. Right now, I believe, it is uncalled for. If he is dead set on giving this individual a raise, I would suggest we wait until September 30th because as you know, presently there is a massive exodus of state employees leaving the State of Rhode Island. Let's wait until September 30th to see if we have enough money to pay this individual. I don't want to see anybody go hungry. I want everybody to have a pay raise if they can. Everyone deserves a pay raise. There are a lot of hard-working state employees, and I am not saying that this individual is not a hard working state employee. This person may deserve it, but right now with the fiscal crisis that we have it is outrageous for the Governor to give this**

**individual a two pay grade increase. I am hoping that this can wait until September 30th until we see how many people leave state service, to make a determination that if we can afford to give this individual a pay raise. Thank you.**

**Are there any other comments that anyone wishes to make?**

**Hearing none, I declare this public hearing closed. It is now 9:15 am.**

**Thank you for taking the time to attend.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Anthony A. Bucci**

**Personnel Administrator**